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JUDGE JOHN SPEED AND HIS  
FAMILY

J. Heywood



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# JUDGE JOHN SPEED

AND HIS FAMILY.

A PAPER PREPARED FOR THE FILSON CLUB,  
AND READ AT ITS MEETING, JUNE 4, 1894.

BY THE

REV. JOHN H. HEYWOOD,

A MEMBER OF THE CLUB.



LOUISVILLE:

JOHN P. MORTON & COMPANY.

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## PREFACE.

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Goodspeed

WITH a view to having in the Archives of the Filson Club the biographies of prominent Kentuckians prepared by members of the Club so related to the subjects as to make the writing a labor of love, I requested the Rev. John H. Heywood to furnish a sketch of the Speed family, with Judge John Speed, the ancestor of the Louisville branch, as the central figure. Dr. Heywood, having been for nearly half a century the loved and able pastor of the Unitarian Church in Louisville of which a number of the Speeds were members, and having married a sister of the wife of Attorney-General Speed, was so related to the family as to be peculiarly fitted for the task.

The following pages contain what he wrote and read to the Club, and those who peruse them will discover for themselves how well the work has been done by his scholarly and faithful pen.

R. T. DURRETT,

President of the Filson Club.

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## JUDGE JOHN SPEED AND HIS FAMILY.

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ON the 12th of April, 1894, I received a kind and courteous note from the honored president of our Club, in which he asked me to prepare for its June meeting a monograph of the "Speed Family."

With his invitation Col. Durrett suggested that Judge John Speed, of Farmington, the founder of the Louisville branch of the family, would make a good center-piece, and following this suggestion were these words:

"Believing it will be to some extent at least a labor of love in you to write such a paper, I hope you will undertake it."

No one of you can realize more fully than I do how far short this paper falls of the "Filson Club's" ideal of a biographical or historical monograph. Such a monograph, alike interesting and valuable, we already have in the volume written by our associate, Mr. Thomas Speed, entitled the "Speed Family," from which, as you will see, I have made liberal quotations; but certainly as a labor of love my paper has been prepared, and as such, with all its imperfections, I know you will kindly receive it.

It will be fifty-four years next August since I first became acquainted with the Speed family. The acquaintance quickly ripened—may I not say was

"transfigured" into a friendship which has been one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life. Ah, such friendships, genuine, warm, abiding, which winter's frosts can not chill nor summer's scorching heat blight, how helpful, how precious they are to us! We see, we feel their beauty in youth's days of hope and enthusiasm, but how infinitely precious do they become when lengthening years and deepening experiences attest their genuineness and their power.

I came to Louisville in August, 1840. Within a few days after my arrival I was invited to Farmington, where I was received with the warm, generous, gracious hospitality which always characterized that attractive, typical Kentucky home. All the family were genial and unremitting in the thoughtful, kindly attentions which make a home bright and winning to the visitor. But though there was brightness, it was the pensive light of the Indian summer, not the full radiance of June.

A few months before a great affliction had befallen the happy home. On the 30th of March of that year the husband, the father, had been called away from earth, and the whole aspect of life had been changed. For evidently to every member of the family he had been—what not all husbands and fathers, however worthy and kind, are, or can be—not only the strong staff to lean on, and the wise counselor to guide, but also the sympathetic, confidential, personal companion and intimate friend. That he had been such to each and to all was borne in to my mind and deeply impressed on my heart from the beginning of my



acquaintance with them; and the fact of his having been such was indication and demonstration to my mind of a rare personality, strong in itself and far-reaching, deeply penetrating in its influence.

I was then a young man, just graduated from the Divinity School of Harvard University. I had been very unexpectedly asked to go to Louisville and take charge for a time of the Unitarian church, of which Rev. James Freeman Clarke for seven years had been pastor.

After brief reflection I accepted the invitation, and accepted it with pleasure.

To me, as to very many others, indeed, to most young New Englanders of that day, there was something charming and attractive in the name "Kentucky." The charm lay partly in the romance thrown around the name by the heroism of Daniel Boone and his associates in their perilous explorations, partly and largely in the ability and eloquence of the men by whom the State was represented in our National Government and life, Henry Clay, of Ashland, being *facile princeps*.

The hold of that great, magnetic man upon the minds and hearts especially of Massachusetts men was very strong, not only through his own brilliancy and attractive personality and broad, glowing patriotism, his intense Americanism in purpose, thought, and act, but also through his intimate political association as Secretary of State with President John Quincy Adams, Massachusetts' rarely gifted and richly endowed son.

In our minds the names "Kentucky" and "Henry Clay" were closely, inseparably bound together—I may indeed say, almost blended into one.

Sharing largely in this warm, enthusiastic admiration for Kentucky, I was glad and grateful that an opportunity was offered me for coming to the State and becoming acquainted with its strong, frank, manly men and their worthy associates, its noble, true-hearted women.

With this feeling and desire pervading mind and heart you can readily understand and appreciate the vividness and the depth of the impression made upon me by the fact, that in those early days of my Kentucky life, its very beginning, I found myself in the home in which had been developed the mind and character of one of its finest types of genuine, noble manhood—a man "*totus teres atque rotundus*."

Nor will you wonder, as the impression then made upon my mind, and I may say upon my heart, instead of lessening with the passing days and years, was deepened and strengthened by all which from time to time I learned about him, that it is a labor of love to write of him and to speak of him.

Nothing so deeply moves us, nothing so charms and holds us, as the contemplation of pure, genuine, strong manhood, save, of course, the contemplation of true, noble, tender, heroic womanhood, and both are essentially the same, each being an emanation and out-raying of indwelling divinity.

When I first sat down at my desk to prepare this paper, through some association Sir William Jones's fine rugged old ode came to my mind.

**JUDGE JOHN SPEED AND HIS FAMILY.**

9

**You remember these strong, stirring lines:**

**"What constitutes a State?  
Not high raised battlement or labored mound,  
Thick wall or moated gate;  
Not cities proud with spires and turrets crowned;  
Not bays or broad armed ports  
Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies ride;  
Not starred and spangled courts,  
Where low browed baseness wafts perfume to pride:  
No—men, high-minded men,  
With powers as far above dull brutes endued,  
In forest, brake, or den,  
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;  
Men who their duties know,  
But know their rights, and knowing dare maintain,  
Prevent the long-aimed blow  
And crush the tyrant while they rend the chain,  
These constitute a State;  
And sovereign Law, that State's collected will,  
O'er thrones and globes elate  
Sits empress, crowning good, repressing ill."**

These lines, which came fresh and living from Sir William Jones's large, generous, freedom-loving soul, recurred to me as I reflected upon the spirit and life of the noble Kentuckian, the high-minded man, Judge John Speed, of whom I would speak to-night, and they seemed very applicable to him.

The members of the Filson Club will recall with pleasure the charming account given to us by our esteemed associate, Mr. Thomas Speed, of the Political Club of Danville, a society remarkable for the high character of its members and the rare ability manifested in its discussions of the great questions of their time, 1786, and the following years.

This club, considering the time and place of its existence, marked and made a phenomenal incident and era. Where were its deliberations held? Not in Boston, or in New York, or Philadelphia, or Baltimore, or Charleston, but in the wilds of Kentucky. And who were the men that composed it? Plain men of strong minds and brave hearts, pioneers and founders. Yet, in the discussion of the articles of the new constitution which had been submitted for adoption or rejection to the American people, and of the great problems involved in the forming of the new Nation, there was a breadth of view, a clear recognition of the principles of American liberty, a purity of moral tone every way worthy of the men who drafted that constitution. Of these men John Mason Brown, in his "Political Beginnings of Kentucky," thus speaks:

"It would not have been possible to assemble another body within the district equal to these men in accomplishments, experience, and possession of public confidence. Their names appear on every page of Kentucky's earlier history."

One of its members was Hon. John Brown, a delegate to the Continental Congress, of whom John Mason Brown says:

"His reading had been chiefly directed by Jefferson, whose personal friendship he enjoyed, and a constant correspondence continued between them. With Madison, six years his senior, an even closer intimacy subsisted, for their academic associations were the same, and their personal contact frequent."

Of this remarkable club Captain James Speed was a member, and his son Thomas, a young man of eighteen years, its secretary.

It was from his valuable records that his grandson, our associate, prepared the able paper just referred to.

The brother of the secretary was John Speed, known afterward as Judge John Speed, of whom we are to speak this evening.

The two brothers were bound most closely together, not only by fraternal ties, but by similarity in intellectual power, and in high moral principle, both being men of positive and strongly marked character, and of large powers of personal influence.

Let us now glance at their ancestry, as given in Mr. Thomas Speed's most valuable record, entitled the "Speed Family."

These are the links in the genealogical chain: They were the sons of Captain James Speed, who was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, 1739, and brought his family to Kentucky, 1782. His father was John Speed, of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, born 1714.

He was the son of James Speed, who was born in Southampton, England, 1679, and his father was John Speed, M. D., born at Oxford. His father was Dr. John Speed, who was born 1595, and was educated in the University of Oxford, and from which he received the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Medicine.

He was the son of the historian, John Speed, of England, who was born at Farrington, 1552, and was eminent in his day, and afterward, for his historical and

geographical knowledge, and skill as a writer. He marks the beginning of the "Speed Family," as presented in Mr. Thomas Speed's fine monograph.

It is a strong and bright chain, every link firm and true. All were men of intelligence and character, a line of inheritance of which one may well be proud; of the good old English stock, lovers of liberty, not of unchartered license, but of law-governed liberty.

The subject of special consideration this evening is Mr. John Speed, brother of Thomas, the able and faithful secretary of the "Political Club," of Danville.

John Speed was born in Virginia, 1772; in 1782 he was brought with his father's family to Kentucky.

His father settled in Lincoln County, about four miles from Danville. He was a man of ardent patriotism, as attested by his services in the Revolutionary War, and by the life-long consequences of the wound received by him in the battle at "Guilford Court House," a man of excellent intellect, of lively imagination and quick wit, with quite a capacity for humorous poetry. He was a constant student, and through his attainments was enabled to instruct his own children, with some of the neighbors' children, in the English branches, and in Latin and Greek, which occupation suited his weakened condition by reason of his wound.

His son Thomas settled in Bardstown, where he married in 1796 Susan Clayton Slaughter, by whom he had one daughter, Anna Maria, who died in 1803. By second marriage he was united to Mrs. Mary McElroy Allen, widow of Robert Allen. To them two

sons were given, Thomas Spencer and John James. In 1817 and 1819 he represented his district in the National Congress.

He built in 1811 the solid, substantial house which was called the "Cottage Grove" homestead, and which became well known, not only to the large circle of relatives, but to the Presbyterian clergy of Kentucky, as the seat of a most generous and cordial hospitality. It was in this home that his mother, the widow of Captain James Speed, passed several of the latter years of her life, and here she died.

This was the birth-place of his eldest son, Thomas S. Speed, a man kindred in mind, spirit, and purpose to his father, and animated by the same spirit of large and gracious hospitality. He was married twice. His first wife was Sarah Whitney Sparhawk, who died in 1842. They had three children, John James, who died in childhood, William O., and Thomas, our associate in this Club. He was again married in 1846 to Margaret Hawkins, who was the mother of Spencer Hawkins, Austin Peay, Horace, Richard Canby, and Louisa J.

Here too was born Dr. J. J. Speed, the second son of Major Thomas Speed, a gentleman well known to many of us as a man of fine mind and varied accomplishments, as a physician with full mastery of the principles of his profession, to which he was always loyally faithful. He wrote much, and his writing was characterized by rare felicity of expression as well as by great clearness of thought and vividness of illustration.

Dr. Speed was twice married, first to Miriam Hawkins, who left two children, Mary Rose and Louisa. By second marriage was united to Belle C. Tevis, daughter of Rev. John Tevis and Julia Tevis, of the famous "Science Hill School," of Shelbyville, Ky. Mrs. Speed for several years has been honorably connected with our "Girls' High School" as Professor of Elocution.

The "Cottage Grove" home by its high moral character and by its varied influences contributed largely to the reputation obtained by Bardstown as an educational center.

J. R. Green in his "Short History" has given us a most charming picture of the Making of the English People.

In the "Cottage Grove" home we have a concrete and delightful example of the making of the people of Kentucky.

Another and kindred illustration is given us in the home established by John Speed, the brother of Thomas. In the beginning of this century he purchased a large tract of land in Jefferson County, between Bardstown and Louisville, about six miles from the latter city, on which he erected a solid, commodious house of the old colonial type, to which was given the name of Farmington. Farmington—appropriate name—for Judge Speed was distinctively a farmer, of the best old Virginia type of farmers. He was called Judge because under the laws of Kentucky at that time one of the courts was constituted by having on the bench one "lay" judge and two lawyers. Mr. Speed was the "lay" judge of this court.



Judge John Speed was a slaveholder, of the class of slaveholders to which Washington and Jefferson belonged, who neither believed in the system of slavery nor desired its perpetuity, but who, having become such in the circumstances surrounding them, by inheritance or otherwise, endeavored to be thoroughly faithful to the great responsibility incurred.

In their eye the slaves were servants, humble dependents, over whom they were to exercise wise supervision, and to do all in their power to make them efficient laborers, and to provide for their comfortable well-being.

Judge Speed, like his brother Thomas, like Washington and Jefferson, like all the far-seeing, patriotic, conscientious slaveholders of the revolutionary period; was an Emancipationist, and who looked confidently forward to the time when freedom should become universal. With these views and this spirit he sought to make the best of the system, which he regarded as necessarily transitory—best for himself and his family, and for his dependents.

We have a most interesting testimony to the spirit which pervaded his life in the *Reminiscences* of Rev. James Freeman Clarke, as quoted by Mr. Thomas Speed in his monograph :

"Judge Speed was a slaveholder, but he did not believe in slavery. He thought it wrong in itself and injurious to the State, and expected, like most intelligent Kentuckians at that time, that Kentucky would before long emancipate its slaves. Meantime he held them as a trust and did every thing he could to make them com-

fortable. If one of his slaves were discontented and ran away, which rarely happened, he did not try to bring him back."

A young man from the North once said to him: "Judge, I do not see but the slaves are as happy as our laboring classes at the North." "Well," said the Judge, "I do the best I can to make my slaves comfortable, but I tell you, sir, you can not make a slave *happy*, do what you will. God Almighty never made a man to be a slave, and he can not be happy while he is a slave." "But," continued the Boston visitor, "what can be done about it, sir? They could not take care of themselves if set free." "I think I could show you three men on my plantation," replied Judge Speed, "who might go to the Kentucky Legislature. I am inclined to believe they would be as good legislators as the average men there now."

Our gifted and honored citizen, the late Judge S. S. Nicholas, once asked of me in his library, "Do you know whom I regard as the best writer of English whom we have had in our city?"

"No, Judge," I said, "I can not tell."

"James Freeman Clarke," he added with emphasis. "He was clear as a thinker, and his terse, simple, strong language distinctly reflected and perfectly expressed his thought."

This most interesting letter is a good illustration of Mr. Clarke as a thinker and a writer; in it we see the character of Judge Speed as estimated by one who judged him fairly because he knew him well, and who knew him well because he loved him warmly.

We see him not only in his attractive personality, but as a sociologist, a wise, broad-minded, free-hearted man, endeavoring to solve as best he could the capital and labor problem as presented concretely and directly to himself.

To him the colored man was not a chattel personal, but a servant from whom he expected and exacted faithful obedience, but whom he treated with kindly consideration, providing generously for his physical comforts, training him to careful habits of intelligent industry, and in sickness watching over him with tender care.

His servants respected him and confided in him, and the relation was made mutually as helpful and beneficial as any relation can be made which is not founded in essential and intrinsic justice.

Thus Farmington treated and ameliorated the slave system, and helped prepare the way for its final cessation.

And while this great social economic problem was being thoughtfully considered, and so far as possible under the circumstances solved, a beautiful home was growing up and exerting far and wide its refining, enlightening influence.

We have seen what manner of man both by inheritance and in his own personality Judge Speed was. A man of large and well-poised brain, of warm and generous heart, and earnestly intent on doing his full duty as a man and citizen.

His first wife was Abby Lemaster, who died in 1807. She had four children, two of whom died in infancy

and two survived her and lived to advanced age, whom some of us knew well as Miss Mary and Miss Eliza Speed, ladies of marked individuality of character.

Miss Mary in her way was a genius, a dear lover of music, and to some extent a composer. She had a facility like that of her grandfather, Captain James Speed, in throwing off impromptu little bits of poetry, bright, often witty, and often pathetic.

Miss Eliza was a lady of rare dignity, of deep refinement of nature, a reader of the best literature, and of elegant courtesy of manner.

In 1808 Judge Speed brought to his home as his second wife Miss Lucy Gilmer Fry, and never did a large-minded man have a more devoted and helpful companion.

She was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, and, as we learn from our associate's interesting monograph, she came to Kentucky when ten years of age, riding on horseback and walking over the "Wilderness Road," that celebrated route being at that date impracticable for any other mode of travel.

She was the daughter of Joshua Fry, a gentleman of high character and rare ability, of whom Mr. Thomas Speed says: "He received the best classical education and had a decided taste for scholarly pursuits. . . . His tastes led him to engage in teaching, and he became the most noted educator ever in Kentucky. Strange as it may seem, he would never receive compensation for teaching, but, through a period of many years, gave instruction to hundreds of pupils gratuitously. Even while Professor in Center College he

adhered to his rule of receiving no compensation for his services. Nor was this from any whimsical conceit, but being a man of large means he did not require the pay, and taught because he loved the occupation and the society of the young."

They were married in Mercer County. She was a woman whom it was a privilege to know, calm in manner, and at the same time thoroughly cordial and with a spirit of inexhaustible and most gracious hospitality.

Her mind was strong, of great common sense, with correspondently great practical wisdom. A more conscientious spirit never blessed a home. Very keen in her discernment of character, she was the very soul of justice in judgment. She impressed us all as one who combined the finest traits of the Roman and Christian matron.

She came to Farmington as the step-mother of Miss Mary and Miss Eliza, who quickly found in her, not the step-mother, but the just, the loving, and devoted mother; and the relation on both sides was alike beautiful and honorable.

She brought to the administration of her household a spirit and purpose thoroughly in accordance with those of her honored and devoted husband. She was the wise mistress to her servants; more than that, she was always their thoughtful, humane, fair, and just counselor and friend. To great firmness she added unfailing kindness. She possessed rare executive ability, and met her great responsibilities with a patience and wisdom proportionate to their needs. She became the mother of quite a large family, five

daughters and six sons, one of whom, Thomas, died in early infancy; another, Ann Pope, a child of great beauty, sweetness of spirit, and attractiveness of manner, died in 1838 at the age of seven years. The others lived to manhood and womanhood, some of them to quite advanced age. Of all the loving band one only remains.

To the spirit and character of the Farmington home a beautiful tribute was paid in a letter recently received from Mrs. Anna H. Clarke, widow of Rev. James Freeman Clarke. In this letter, written February 16, 1894, Mrs. Clarke says: "My stay in Louisville was so short that I did not really become intimate with the members of the Speed family, and yet I have always thought of them as valued friends. I had a glimpse of the home during a visit of two days there when Judge Speed was still with his family, and oh! how pleasant the atmosphere was; the truthfulness and naturalness, the cordial welcome of Mr. Clarke and his stranger wife, the nobility of thought shown in conversation, the freedom from mere conventional trammels, the family affection, all this was like a breath of fresh upland air to one who had been living in a boarding-house."

All the sons of Judge Speed were high-toned, honorable men.

The eldest son of this family was the Hon. James Speed, well called honorable, not only because of high offices borne by him and great trusts confided to him, but because in himself he was the very soul of honor. Bravest of the brave, he shrank from no physical peril, and his moral courage was sublime.

Of him, when advocating a cause which he believed to be right and just, it might be said, as Milton said of the "Angel Abdiel:"

"Nor number nor example with him wrought  
To swerve from truth or change his constant mind,  
Though single."

A firm believer in political action, he never could be a hide-bound partisan. The spoils system was abhorrent to his nature, and so alien to his soul was the spirit of nepotism that when in exalted office he would not have a son made a page in Congress.

To some of the sterner qualities which characterized him was added an almost feminine sensitiveness of temperament, and his tenderness was exquisite; a most chivalrous husband and loving father, the wise counselor of the colored people; the firmest of friends and the most unswerving of patriots.

Invited by President Lincoln to become Attorney-General of the United States, the relation between the two was very beautiful, alike in the perfectness of official confidence and in the strength and ardor of personal friendship.

In 1840 Mr. Speed was married to Jane—fondly called Jennie—Cochran, second daughter of John Cochran, a respected citizen of Louisville of Scottish birth.

Mrs. Speed was a woman of large heart, frank, outspoken, thoughtful, and kind. There was no end to her benefactions to the poor and the friendless. Without sentimentality she had truest and profoundest sentiment.

She and her husband, though of different natural temperament, were so united in principle and in mutual respect and profound love that their marriage was a true union; so perfect that when she was called away it seemed as if a large part of her husband's life also passed away.

He bore his great loss in uncomplaining submission and with calm fortitude, but, though he survived her a few years, it was evident to observers that when she died his dying really began.

Seven sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Speed, of whom six survive—John, who married Miss Aurore Combe; Henry Pirtle, who married Mrs. Lizzie Goldbach; Charles, who married Eliza Homire; Breckinridge, who married Lizzie McGoodwin; James, who married Hattie Morton; Joshua F., who married Anna Granger, and Edward Shippen, who died in 1862, aged six years.

Joshua Fry Speed, the second son, was a man of strong nature, reticent and undemonstrative in words, but very expressive in action, with great common sense and strong financial qualities. He was a successful business man, and while utterly unostentatious in his acts of charity he was a real and true benefactor to countless men.

In 1842 he was united in a most happy marriage to Miss Fanny Henning, sister of James W. Henning, with whom he was for many years associated in business. He died in 1882.

Mrs. Speed survived him and still continues her



beneficent work to the Methodist Church, of which she is a devoted member, and to humanity at large.

As is well known, Mr. Joshua Speed was the intimate, most personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, the two having been room-mates for seven years in Springfield, Ill., and no man stood closer to the heart of the great President or enjoyed more of his confidence.

William Pope Speed, the third son, was a model of manly beauty and courtesy, one of the most popular of men in the social circle, overflowing with wit and humor, and everywhere respected for genuine manliness and loved for his winning personality.

William Speed was married in 1840 to Margaret D. Phillips, but her death in 1841 made their happy union of short continuance. He was afterward married to Mary Ellen Shallcross, daughter of Captain John Shallcross, a lady as beautiful in person as she was gracious in spirit. She died in 1844, leaving one son, our respected and most prominent fellow-citizen, James Breckinridge Speed, who married Cora Coffin. William Speed was again married in Missouri to Ardell Hutchinson, mother of Austin Peay and Laura.

Philip Speed, the fourth son, was a clear-minded, resolute, energetic man, of cordial, affable manner and full of tender sympathy. He was paymaster in the Union Army with the rank of Major. To him we owe the first suggestion of a Manual Training School in connection with our system of public school education.

Mr. Speed's wife was Emma, daughter of George Keats, the beloved brother of the poet, John Keats, whom in refinement of feeling and exquisite sensibility she resembled, and not only so but also in remarkable intellectual clearness and power of spiritual perception, with uncommon felicity in the expression both in prose and verse of strong and beautiful thought.

They had nine children—Mary Eliza, who married E. S. Tuley; George Keats, who married Jennie Ewing, and died in 1887; Peachy Austine, who married Captain John F. Rogers, of the United States Army; Ella Keats, who married Mr. T. B. Crutcher, and died in 1878; John Gilmer, a man of marked literary ability and one of the most valued contributors to the "Harper Publications," and who was married to Mary C. Poindexter; Alice Keats, who married H. P. McDonald; Fanny H., who married M. J. O'Connor; Florence, who married Josiah McRoberts, and Thomas A., who married Amelia Harrison.

John Smith Speed, the fifth son, was a man of lovely nature—and strong as it was lovable—modest, unassuming, sincere, reverent, and thoroughly unselfish.

He was twice married, first to Elizabeth Williamson, who died early, leaving no children. His second marriage was to Miss Susan Phillips. She was the sister of Margaret Phillips, and kindred to her in winningness of person, spirit, and character. They had six children.

Elizabeth Williamson, who married our lamented friend and fellow-citizen, R. Jouett Menefee, worthy

son of the gifted Richard H. Menefee, whose brilliant oratory and effective eloquence, though his life was short, made him one of Kentucky's most admired and honored sons; William Phillips, who married Belle Ellis, of Bardstown; Joshua F., who married Carrie Nicholson; Archie Cochran, who married Mary Burns, of Chicago; J. Smith, who married Mary Stuart Shallcross, and Mary Ellen.

Of the five daughters of Judge John Speed, worthy sisters of these brothers, the eldest was Lucy Fry, who married James D. Breckinridge, Esq. She was a modest, diffident, and retiring woman. Strong in her convictions and unfalteringly true to her sense of duty and of right, her benevolence was equal to her conscientiousness.

A most noteworthy illustration of her loyalty to what she regarded as duty and right was given in the quietest manner possible in 1854, when she liberated a family of servants, to whom she was greatly attached, and secured for them a comfortable home and the means of livelihood in Canada.

In her character the union of strength and gentleness was complete; a union as beautiful as it is rare. Her moral courage was equal to that of her brother James. A lady by inheritance, with instinctive sense of all rightful requirements of social decorum and etiquette, she had no fear of Mrs. Grundy, and very little respect for her.

Peachy Walker, the second daughter, married Mr. Austin L. Peay. She was a lady of commanding

appearance, of fine form, bright and most winning countenance. She had a strong, active mind, full of wit and humor, was a charming conversationalist, with great power of quick and pointed repartee. She possessed unusual executive power, and discharged the responsibilities devolved upon her by the early death of her fondly loved husband with rare wisdom and justice. Unceasing in her thoughtful benefactions, she rendered inestimable service to ever so many souls in lessening life's burdens and in brightening its pathways.

She had four children, Lucy F., George N., J. Speed, and her gifted daughter, Eliza, wife of Colonel J. H. Ward, who alone survives her.

The third daughter was Susan F., who, in 1838, married Benjamin Outram Davis, a man pleasantly and gratefully remembered as an upright and respected merchant and a genial, thoughtful Christian gentleman.

Eight children were given to Mr. and Mrs. Davis: Eliza Julia, who died in 1874; Lucy Gilmer, who married J. Edward Hardy; John Speed, who married Lou McDonald, and who died 1874; Katherine Wendell, who married Dexter Hewett; Edward, Captain in the U. S. Army, who married Margaret J. Davis, of Washington, D. C.; Joshua Fry, who died 1851; Mary, who died 1872; Jane Louis, who married Dr. Douglass Morton.

Mrs. Davis was a most devout and devoted member of the Episcopal Church, and a woman of largest humanity. This was evidenced by her life-long inter-

est in every public charity, and especially by her long connection with the Home of the Friendless, of which for several years she was the efficient president, and this attested the depth, the strength, and the persistency of her interest in the fallen and the out-cast, for whose rescue and redemption she labored indefatigably.

The fourth and only surviving daughter is Mrs. Martha B. Adams, mother of Kate, Lucy Ness, Bessie Innes, who died young, and of Gilmer Speed, who married Miss Lettie Robinson, and of Jessie, who married Horace Speed, of Oklahoma, and whose recent sudden death, May 24th, has brought keenest sorrow to many hearts.

May the beautiful life of Mrs. Adams, the worthy daughter, in strength of mind and sterling integrity of character, of her honored parents, and the beloved and trusted companion of the noble band of brothers and sisters, be long continued.

The fifth daughter, Ann Pope, died in early youth.

So was founded and developed the family of Farmington. During all these years of varied experiences, which mark and make all human life, its venerated head was all the while growing in mental strength and wisdom, and in elevation and wide-spreading influence of character.

Judge Speed was a close and independent thinker, a clear and forcible writer. He formed his opinion on all subjects deliberately, always welcoming new light, and heroically loyal to his convictions. A man

of broadest and deepest patriotism, he discharged his duties as a citizen with conscientious fidelity.

A man of such moral and mental characteristics is often misunderstood and misjudged. Because of his broad and, as he thought, rational interpretation he was called by some an infidel, though no man ever had a sincerer or profounder respect for religion.

In early manhood for health's reason he went by river and sea to Philadelphia, and there he chanced to hear a discourse on the "Moral and Religious Conduct of Life," by Rev. Joseph Priestly, LL. D., which impressed him deeply and permanently. Dr. Priestly was an earnest student of philosophy and science, profoundly interested in chemical research and investigation. He had been a minister of a non-conformist Unitarian chapel in England. He was driven from his English home, Birmingham, by a mob, who, impelled by hostility to his liberal political views and his alleged religious heresy, burned his church, home, and library, and forced him into exile. Dr. Priestly, by his sincere, unostentatious piety, beautiful life, and unfaltering pursuit of truth in all departments of thought, made a profound and indelible impression upon the mind and heart of the young man.

A very interesting quotation is made by our associate, in his monograph on the "Speed Family," of a portion of a letter written by Judge Speed to his brother Thomas in 1834. His brother was conservative in his religious views, but the difference of opinion in no way impaired the perfect fraternal relations between them.

In this letter Judge Speed says:

"My confirmed opinion of true religion, after having read somewhat and reflected and observed with all the capacity I am master of, is, it consists in the conscientious performance of our duties as men in all our relations to each other, and all sentient beings, under a cultivated and habitual sense of future responsibility to God, that Being who made us and gave us our feelings, passions, reason, and judgment, etc."

In another letter to this brother, and bearing date March 22, 1840, only eight days before his death, in expressing his views upon the origin of the Bible and its interpretation, which were in what would now be called by many in the line of the "higher criticism," he thus writes:

"I can not join you in receiving from the beginning the Bible. It is, however, the book that I have long been in the habit of resorting to for sound instruction. I read it five times as much as most professing Christians. . . . The result of my reading and researches so far has greatly raised the value of the religion taught by Christ in my estimation. I have no doubt it is the best which has been offered to the world. I am more disposed to favor, nay, aid its progress, and I go so far as to say, if I could see a Church *bearing the fruits* I would be disposed to fall in; but until I can see such an one, I am compelled to remain a well-wisher, and claim at least a social and friendly fellowship in life and spirit with those who bear fruit, with whatever denomination of Christian, Hindoo, Mohammedan, or even Deists."

The letters of Judge Speed to his brother and to his children make a full and interesting revelation of his spirit and personality. In reading them one is impressed deeply, not only by their clearness of thought and transparency of expression, their practical wisdom and their all-pervading common sense, but also by their unconscious disclosures of his emotional nature. His heart was as tender as his brain was active and strong.

In a letter to his daughter Martha, written very soon after the death of the beloved child, Ann Pope, the tenderness of his large heart thus reveals itself:

"I am, and we all are, glad to see that you are making the proper effort to bear as you ought the loss of our dear little Ann. I had no idea before how the dear little angel was intertwined in my heart. God bless her little soul is my constant ejaculation whenever she comes in my mind, which is very often."

Who can help feeling heart throbs in every word, in every line!

In Judge Speed's politico-economical views he held firmly to the so-called "American System," believing most heartily and thoroughly in the rightfulness and wisdom, as well as in the expediency of protection to our country's infant industries.

Our associate, Mr. Speed, in his invaluable monograph, has given us a very interesting quotation from the last of a series of essays written by Judge Speed, in the early part of 1828, for "The Focus," a Louisville paper published by John P. Morton & Co.



I have lately had the pleasure of reading all those essays, and the pleasure was all the greater because of the fine, manly, candid spirit pervading them. They were written at the time of intense political excitement which preceded the first election of General Jackson to the presidency. No political campaign in the history of our country has been marked by greater asperity and acrimony. On one side General Jackson was denounced by his opponents as a tyrant, and denied all fitness for civil administration; and, on the other hand, the opponents of Mr. Adams declared that his administration must be put down "though it were pure as the angels around the throne of God."

Amid all this turmoil of partisan and personal excitement and injustice Judge Speed wrote his articles in temper becoming a patriot, and with the ability of a statesman, giving his personal convictions in regard to the constitutionality and wisdom of the principles of protection, and supporting his arguments by the opinion and practice of the first six Presidents.

We have thus glanced rapidly at the lives, characters, and influences of Thomas and John Speed, eldest sons of Captain James Speed.

Captain Speed's second daughter was Elizabeth, born in Virginia, 1774, and came with the family to Kentucky, 1782.

At the age of eighteen she married Dr. Adam Rankin, of Henderson, Ky.

Mr. Speed, in his monograph, says:

"It is an interesting fact the celebrated naturalist, Audubon, who resided in Henderson for some years,

made his home at the house of Dr. Adam Rankin. They were intimate personal friends, and Dr. Rankin's children always cherished the memory of the man they knew familiarly, and who became world famous."

Very pleasant would it be to take up and follow the history of the descendants of another daughter of Captain James Speed, Miss Mary Speed, who married William Smith, but time and space forbid even a slight sketch.

In the line of her descendants we find many families that have been most closely associated with the development of our State and Nation, such as the Smiths, Frys, Lawrences, Greens, Goodloes, and Stevensons. We need only mention the names of such men as Dr. Thomas Walker Fry, Gen. Speed Smith Fry, Col. John Speed Smith, Gen. and Rev. Green Clay Smith, William Cassius Goodloe, and, by marriage, Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice-President of the United States, to indicate the positions held and the services rendered by these honored families.

It is illustrative of the division in sentiment, opinion, and action in Kentucky during the Civil War, that of the grandchildren of Mrs. Elizabeth Speed Rankin two served in the Union army, viz., William S. Johnson and Campbell H. Johnson, sons of Dr. Thomas J. Johnson and Juliet Rankin Johnson, of Henderson, Ky., and three served in the Confederate army, viz., Benjamin Johnson, Adam Rankin Johnson, of General John H. Morgan's command, who rose to be a Brigadier General, and Thomas J. Johnson, who served with him.

Of the descendants of Mary Speed Smith who participated in the war may be mentioned Gen. Speed S. Fry, Gen. Green Clay Smith, Col. William Cassius Goodloe, Dr. Thomas Walker Fry and his sons.

Of the grandchildren of Thomas and John Speed none were connected with the Confederate army, but seven served in the Union army, viz., Thomas Speed, son of Thomas S. Speed, joined the Union army in 1862 as a private in the 12th Kentucky Veteran Infantry, was made First Lieutenant, and then Adjutant; also served as Captain on the Brigade staff.

William was the Sergeant Major of the Eighth Kentucky Cavalry.

John Speed, eldest son of James Speed, who enlisted in the 9th Kentucky Cavalry, and was made Captain and Assistant Adjutant General in 1863. He served successively on the staffs of Gen. C. C. Gilbert, Gen. Nelson, Gen. Rosecrans, Major General W. T. Ward, and others.

James B. Speed, son of William P. Speed, who enlisted at the beginning of the war, and became Adjutant of the 27th Kentucky Infantry, first commanded by Charles D. Pennebacker, afterward by Col. J. H. Ward.

George K. Speed, son of Philip Speed, entered the Union service at the age of sixteen, in the 1st Kentucky Cavalry, in 1863 was made Adjutant and Captain in the 4th Kentucky Cavalry.

Edward Davis, son of Benjamin O. and Susan Speed Davis, who, in 1862, was commissioned Second Lieutenant 5th Kentucky Cavalry, and made aid-de-camp

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to Brigadier General R. W. Johnson, and, as we have seen, is now Captain in the Regular army.

J. Speed Peay, son of Peachy W. and Austin L. Peay, was a Captain in the 3d Kentucky Cavalry.

In closing our review of the history and development of this family, let us go back for a moment to the years 1782 and 1798. In the former we see Captain James Speed, with his family, making their way, slowly and painfully, over the "Wilderness Road" by horse and on foot from Virginia to Kentucky. In the latter we see Lucy Gilmer Fry, with her family, making the same long journey.

Captain Speed's sons, Thomas and John, and his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, at the time of the immigration were respectively fourteen, twelve, ten, and eight years of age, and Lucy Gilmer Fry of ten years.

A single glance is sufficient to disclose to us the circumstances amid which the childhood and youth of these young pioneers were passed; and that glance, taken in connection with their fine moral and spiritual inheritance, gives us the key to the strong, noble, manly, and womanly characters which were formed and developed, and helps us to estimate aright the services rendered to our dear State, Country, and Humanity.

So the bright, golden chain, along which the electric currents of thought and beneficence are transmitted, is unbroken, from the English historian, John Speed,

